PRESIDENT: Order, order. What is the question to which the honourable member is referring?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: 384.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The honourable member did not catch my eye when I passed over from 384 to 385. If the honourable member had any question to put he should have been vigilant and should have caught the President's eye. If he does not, then it is not my fault.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: But I have no control over the President, Sir. *(Laughter.)*

PRESIDENT: Order, order. That is one of the drawbacks of having a 'President' and the President having or not having an eye. As a matter of fact, if the honourable member reads the chronicle of the Parliament he will see that there was a complaint on one occasion—it was at the time of Disraeli—that there was one back bencher who said that he had risen at least on one thousand occasions to speak and on none of those one thousand occasions could he catch the Speaker's eye. The answer was "I have a seeing eye as well as a blind eye." That was the answer of the Speaker. I do not think that I am turning a blind eye on Mr. Chellappan Pillai. From his interventions in the debate he will see that the President's eye is favourably, rather than blindly, turned towards him. There is no particular reason for that. If at any time the honourable member has a quarrel with the way in which questions are answered he may mention it and I will deal with the matter. But if he had risen and had caught my eye when 384 was on the tapis I should have allowed him. But now that we are on 385 he cannot go back to 384.

*Munnar town.*

385. * MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that Munnar town which is one of the best health resorts and sanatoria in South India is within the area occupied by the K. D. H. P. Co., Ltd., and that the public who want to make use of this health resort have to experience several difficulties like want of buildings, etc.?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Yes.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know what steps Government are proposing to take to acquire the Munnar town which in fact belongs to Travancoreans?

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The K. D. H. P. Company, was about 50 or 60 years ago given concessions which practically make it the owner of a large part of the Travancore State. And they have, as owners, every right to deal with their property. Government have come to the conclusion that it is essentially for Government to acquire control over the company and the locality where it functions. Government have made it clear to the organisation that that is their policy. Government have also issued instructions that as many shares of the company—the shares are held in England as possible should be purchased. Government are still purchasing

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shares of the company in the share market in England. At the present moment, we have purchased about Rs. 5 lakhs worth of shares. The company has got a share capital of something like three crores of rupees and it will be some time before all their shares are bought. But the company knows very well that steps will be taken to acquire control over the property which is now leased to it. What steps will have to be taken for the purpose will be done based on the legal opinion that will be obtained and upon certain matters of high policy in regard to the future of British concerns in India. If, as I take it, the underlying object of British companies and British concerns is to work in co-partnership and in full co-operation with the Government that may be constituted in British India, I have no doubt that the British concerns will voluntarily come to terms with the Government of Travancore, and the Government of India of the future, so that there might be no State action that might have to be taken, in regard to these concerns, belonging to people who are not nationals of India. That is a matter of high policy which will have to be decided by the Government to come. But whether the future national Government deals with that or not, every British concern here has been given the chance to come into co-operation with this Government because this Government has no objection to British talents being employed and even British capital, so long as that British talent and that British capital do not over-shadow the national interests and the Travancore policy. That the full control of policy and everything that appertains to the future working of the concern should be entirely at the disposal of the Travancore Government have been made clear not only to the K. D. H. P. Company, but to all the other British concerns working and functioning in the State.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know when this period expires?

PRESIDENT: It never expires.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know how many more years it will work?

PRESIDENT: For ever, for eternity.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether a portion of the Rest House at Munnar is now occupied by the Public Health Department?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: They have vacated the place.

*Sasthamcottah Lake.*

386. ❋ MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government have included in their post-war reconstruction work, the work of joining Sasthamcottah Lake with Ashtamudi Lake by a canal which is only less than a mile in length?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: No.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: May I know whether the Government have made an investigation on the matter?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: The question will be investigated.

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